



# Development of a Personal Formulary app to increase student engagement and integration in pharmacology and therapeutics

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## Problem:

Students on the BVSc and MBChB courses have long struggled to engage with pharmacology and pharmacy teaching.

Common feedback themes:

- *It's too difficult*
- *It's just remembering lists*
- *It's really boring*

This translates into difficulty later in the course in applying basic concepts in therapeutics and clinical practice.

Students on rotations claim they “haven't been taught” various drugs.

## Solution?

- Increase **active learning**
- Encourage **contextualisation**
- Make it **accessible**
- Make it clinically **useful**
- Make it **personal**

## So we developed an app!

- Students enter details on pre-populated drugs
- Voice memos and species notes enable addition of case-based detail
- Free app available on Android and iPhone
- Drugs can be added and deleted by students to customise and as field advances
- Trialled with year 2 veterinary students

## What have we learned so far?

- Vet feedback extremely positive
- Build it into the curriculum
- Assessment is key – make it count

## Future plans

- Formal evaluation of student opinion
- Study evaluating learning gains in pharmacology and pharmacy
- Integrate the learning tool throughout the course and in extra-mural studies

**Amoxicillin (+/- clavulanate; beta lactamase inhibitor)**

**Drug Type**  
Antibiotics

**Class**  
Beta-lactams

**Mechanism of action**

**Clinical Indications**

**Pharmacokinetics**  
Absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion

**Common side effects**  
Very common (greater than 1 in 10), common (1 in 100 to 1 in 10)

**Contraindications**  
Circumstances when a drug should be avoided

**Drug interactions**  
Important and potentially serious interactions

**Species use**  
Species specific information

**Licencing**  
Licensed products and species indication

**Dose information**  
Route of administration  
Please select  
Dose  
Frequency

**Handling information**  
Handling instructions for staff/owner

**Additional notes**

**Record Audio Notes**

**Commonly co-prescribed drugs**  
Drugs commonly prescribed alongside this one  
Type to search drugs

**Submit Drug**

**Delete drug**